

## Message Text

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70

ACTION ORM-03

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GENEVA FOR RMRC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, ICEM

SUBJECT: US CONTRIBUTION TO LATIN AMERICAN PROGRAM OF THE  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR EUROPEAN MIGRATION (ICEM)

REFS: A. STATE 217677, B. STATE 228136

SUMMARY. INVESTIGATION BY EMBASSY INDICATES ICEM'S PROGRAM HAS BEEN MARGINALLY SUCCESSFUL IN BRINGING TO ARGENTINA USEFUL INDUSTRIAL WORKERS AND A RELATIVELY SMALL NUMBER OF TRAINED AGRICULTURISTS. DISORGANIZATION IN GOA AND LACK OF A CONSISTENT DYNAMIC IMMIGRATION POLICY HAVE ACTED TO REDUCE EFFECTIVENESS OF ICEM PROGRAM. GOA IS UNLIKELY TO INCREASE SUPPORT FOR ICEM BUDGET IN CY74, BUT IS EXPECTED TO MAKE ITS REGULAR OFFICIAL CONTRIBUTION AND ALSO TO ASSIST IN COVERING EXPECTED ICEM DEFICIT. THERE IS A DIVISION WITHIN GOA CONCERNING SUPPORT TO BE PROVIDED ICEM. OFFICE OF MIGRATION IN MINISTRY OF INTERIOR WOULD PREFER TO SEE ICEM PROGRAMS SUPPORTED AT PRESENT LEVELS OR BETTER IN FUTURE. THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS INDICATES THERE IS NO CHANCE ARGENTINE SUPPORT WILL INCREASE IN CY74 AND WILL BE NEITHER SURPRISED NOR DISAPPOINTED IF US CONTRIBUTION REDUCED. PERON HAS MADE NUMBER OF STATEMENTS INDICATING HIS  
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POSSIBLE SUPPORT FOR GREATER IMMIGRATION AND HIS GOVERNMENT MAY SUPPORT ICEM MORE FIRMLY IN 1975 AND BEYOND. END SUMMARY

1. ICEM HAS BROUGHT A FAIR NUMBER OF SKILLED INDUSTRIAL WORKERS

INTO ARGENTINA UNDER PROGRAMS IN WHICH SELECTION HAS BEEN DIRECTED ONLY TOWARD MEETING NEEDS FOR PARTICULARLY SCARCE SKILLS. NO STATISTICS HAVE BEEN PROVIDED US WHICH WOULD SUPPORT STRONGER STATEMENTS CONCERNING VALUE OF SKILLED IMMIGRANTS TO INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BUT, IN CURRENT ECONOMIC/INDUSTRIAL STAGE OF ARGENTINA, WE BELIEVE IT CAN SAFELY BE SAID PROGRAM HAS BEEN HELPFUL THOUGH NOT IMPORTANT. SOME FARM FAMILIES HAVE BEEN ASSISTED TO SETTLE IN ARGENTINA BUT NUMBER TO DATE HAS BEEN TOO SMALL TO HAVE MADE ANY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT. FONMIN OFFICIALS HIGHLIGHTED TO EMBOFF THAT HIGH PERCENTAGE OF EUROPEAN FARM FAMILIES ARRIVING UNDER ICEM AUSPICES HAVE RETURNED TO HOMELANDS. OTHER OFFICES CONSULTED BY EMBASSY DO NOT EMPHASIZE THIS POINT. APPARENTLY NO STATISTICS AVAILABLE.

2. ICEM HAS RECEIVED A FAIR AMOUNT OF SUPPORT FROM GOA WHICH NOT REFLECTED IN REF A. FONMIN OFFICIALS SPOKE TO US ONLY OF REGULAR ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET CONTRIBUTION TOTALING US\$52,000. OUR OTHER SOURCES INDICATE ARGENTINA, TOGETHER WITH BRAZIL, HAVE BEEN MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS TO COVERING DEFICIT IN SOUTH AMERICAN PROGRAM, AN ACTION ALLEGEDLY COSTING MINISTRY OF INTERIOR BUDGET US\$30,000. MINISTRY OF INTERIOR ALSO SUPPORTS PART OF MIGRANTS PASSAGE COST AND PROVIDES TEMPORARY ALLOWANCES IN EARLY MONTHS FOLLOWING ARRIVAL. TOTALS OF GOA EXPENDITURES SAID TO REACH AREA OF US\$120,000 IN FY72.

3. THERE IS DIVISION RATHER THAN CONSENSUS IN GOA REGARDING ICEM. DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL OFFICE OF MIGRATION INDICATED HE IS INTERESTED IN EXPANDING ICEM ACTIVITIES AS PART OF A BROADER POLICY FOR PROMOTING SELECTIVE MIGRATION. APPARENTLY HE DOES NOT YET HAVE HIGH GOA APPROVAL FOR SUCH A POLICY. MINISTRY OF LABOR OFFICES, WHICH IN PAST HAVE HAD AN INTEREST IN ICEM PROGRAMS, HAS RECENTLY SUFFERED REORGANIZATION AND PRESENT OFFICIALS THERE HAVE LITTLE KNOWLEDGE OF, NOR INTEREST IN, ICEM PROGRAM. FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS IN OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS ARE KEENLY DISAPPOINTED AT "MEAGER" RESULTS AND "EXTREMELY HIGH PER CAPITA COSTS" OF ICEM PROGRAM. THEY TOLD EMBOFF THAT GOA WOULD NOT AGREE, UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES

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TO INCREASE ITS REGULAR CONTRIBUTION TO ICEM FOR CY74 ACTIVITIES. THEY WERE AWARE THAT US SEEKING REDUCE SIZE AND SHARE USG CONTRIBUTION IN FUTURE. THEY SAID THEY UNDERSTOOD REASON FOR USG PROPOSED ACTION AND WOULD BE NEITHER SURPRISED NOR SERIOUSLY DISAPPOINTED IF USG FOLLOWED THROUGH. IN CIRCUMSTANCES ICEM APPEARS TO BE WORKING PRIMARILY WITH GROUPS IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND WITH SOME SUPPORT FROM PROVINCIAL AUTHORITIES IN SEEKING TO DEVELOP SPECIFIC PROGRAMS THAT WOULD APPEAR TO MEET SPECIFIC ARGENTINE NEEDS.

4. THERE ARE DIFFICULTIES IN SEEKING TO PROVIDE ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS RAISED PARA 6, REF A AS APPLIED TO ARGENTINA.

ARGENTINA HAS PERHAPS LARGEST STOCK OF SKILLED WORKERS AND PROFESSIONALS OF ANY LA COUNTRY. IN RECENT YEARS, WITH ARGENTINE ECONOMY GROWING RELATIVELY SLOWLY, THERE HAS BEEN APPRECIABLE AMOUNT OF EMIGRATION BY SKILLED LABOR AND PROFESSIONALS. FIRMS IN BRAZIL ADVERTISE HERE FOR NEEDED TECHNICIANS, MANAGERS, ETC. SITUATION WILL BE REVERSED, OF COURSE, WHEN AND IF ECONOMIC GROWTH INCREASES SIGNIFICANTLY. THIS SITUATION, AND RELATIVELY CONTINUOUS TURNOVER IN ARGENTINA GOVERNMENTS, ARE AMONG FACTORS RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT WE SEE AS RELATIVE LACK OF ARGENTINE INTEREST IN ICEM. AT PRESENT TIME REDUCTION

OF ICEM PROGRAM TO ARGENTINA COULD NOT BE SAID TO HAVE SERIOUS IMPLICATIONS BUT PROGRAMS LIKE THAT OF ICEM MAY BECOME MORE NEEDED INFUTURE.

5. ARGENTINA HAS PUBLICLY OWNED, UNUSED BUT CULTIVATABLE LANDS. IN ADDITION THERE ARE PROJECTS, SOME NOW BEING BUILT AND OTHERS PLANNED, TO IRRIGATE SUBSTANTIAL AREAS PREVIOUSLY NOT SUBJECT TO CULTIVATION. ADMITTEDLY, ARGENTINA WOULD BENEFIT GREATLY IF THESE LANDS COULD BE COLONIZED BY TRAINED FARMERS ABLE TO APPLY MODERN AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES. ALTHOUGH THE GOA NOW HAS NO PROGRAM TO DO SO, AND IT IS, IN ANY CASE, NOT ORGANIZED TO CARRY OUT A PROGRAM OF RECRUITING OF IMMIGRANTS, EXCEPT THROUGH USING ICEM, THE EMBASSY FEELS IT IS POSSIBLE THAT GOA WILL IN NEXT YEAR OR TWO INCREASE ITS INTEREST IN AND EFFORTS TOWARD SECURING SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF POSSIBLE NEW FARM OWNERS OR MANAGERS IN DRIVE TO INCREASE LAND UNDER CULTIVATION AND AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION. OVER PAST FEW MONTHS, PERON HIMSELF HAS SEVERAL TIMES MADE REFERENCE TO DESIRABILITY OF INCREASING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
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AND INTENSIFYING LAND UTILIZATION AND FARM POPULATION. DESPITE LACK OF PROGRESS TO DATE IN ADOPTING APPROPRIATE IMMIGRATION POLICIES OR REORGANIZING APPROPRIATE GOVERNMENT OFFICES FOR ANY SUCH PURPOSE, ICEM OFFICIALS IN ARGENTINA, VARIOUS PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS, AND SOME PRIVATE FOUNDATIONS OR ORGANIZATIONS TAKE HEART FROM PERON'S WORDS AND STATE THEY ANTICIPATE HE WILL PROVIDE FINANCIAL AND OTHER SUPPORT FOR SUCH AN EFFORT BEFORE LONG. IF ICEM CAN DEVELOP EFFECTIVE PROGRAMS FOR ASSISTING ARGENTINA TO COLONIZE EMPTY LANDS AND GOA CHOOSES TO USE ICEM FOR THIS PURPOSE, SUBSTANTIAL ASSISTANCE TO ARGENTINE DEVELOPMENT COULD RESULT.  
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